

TASHLICH ON ROSH HASHANAH 2021

Tashlich may look different this year!

Here are some ideas for including this fun ritual in your family's Rosh Hashanah celebration at home this year.

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, is the birthday of the world, and birthdays are big days. It's a time to take stock, both individually and as a community, and to think about ways to make the coming year even better than the last.

Tashlich, which literally translates to "casting off," is a ceremony performed on the afternoon of the first day of Rosh Hashanah. During this ceremony, Jews symbolically cast off the sins of the previous year by tossing pebbles or bread crumbs into flowing water. During this ritual, people think of things they've done wrong in the past year and then "throw them away," promising for improvement in the coming year. Kids can easily grasp the ideas of wanting to do better and saying "sorry," so including them in a simple, age-appropriate *tashlich* ceremony is a great way to build understanding about the ritual while building a fun family tradition. Many of the ideas in the list below are great for children ages four and up.
Source: PJLibrary



USE BATH CRAYONS

Use bath crayons to write or draw things you are sorry about in the tub and then wash them away. Again, if your kids are too young to verbalize or recognize things that they are sorry for, you can do the writing or drawing for them and then let them do the part -- washing away the writing.

GRAB THE SIDEWALK CHALK

Make a short list together and write it out in sidewalk chalk. Then, fill up some water balloons, or use the hose, to "erase" the words and sentences in the list. You'll be left with beautiful, and temporary, rainbow streaks on your driveway or sidewalk.

FILL UP THE KIDDIE POOL

Don't have running water near your home? Instead use whatever you have around, like a kiddie pool or even a bowl or tub of water. While having a discussion about *tashlich's* values, have your children write/draw some of their transgressions on pieces of white copy paper in washable marker. Float the papers in the water and have them watch as their sins and mistakes disappear.

“WASH” MISTAKES AWAY ROSH HASHANAH CRAFT



Sometimes things we do make us wish we could just wash our mistakes away. While we may not be able to do that literally, *tashlich*, which translates to “casting off,” is a ceremony performed on the afternoon of the first day of [Rosh Hashanah](#) wherein Jews symbolically cast off the sins of the previous year by tossing pebbles or bread crumbs into flowing water. This craft is another way we can approach the Jewish value of forgiveness by looking at our own mistakes, atone to others and ourselves, and move forward.

Supplies

- Washable markers
- Large coffee filters

Directions

- Use the washable markers to draw pictures on the coffee filters of things that you are sorry for and don't want to repeat in the new year.
- As you draw, reflect on these mistakes and resolve to do better.
- Take the filters to the sink or bathtub, place them in the water, and watch the mistakes wash away.

A BREAD-FREE TASHLICH FOR KIDS – FOR EVERYONE!

While a lot of us grew up using bread crumbs for *tashlich*, we know today that “human-food” like bread isn't great for some wild-life to eat. It's not that the bread is poisonous to ducks, it just fills them up, leaving no room for the nutritional food they would otherwise eat. Ever had to use the phrase “Don't fill up on bread”? It's pretty much the same for birds as it is for humans. Luckily there are lots of ways to get creative when performing *tashlich*. And if you'd like to stay closer to tradition and “cast off” into moving water, here are some environmentally friendly options you can try:

SMALL STONES



If there aren't any small pebbles nearby, you can always try fallen leaves or tiny twigs to keep the items natural to the local environment. Animals won't try to eat these, and they're still easy enough to pick up and toss. Or go to the beach and practice skipping stones.

MAKE YOUR OWN RUNNING WATER

If you're attached to using bread – maybe it's a long-time family tradition – consider changing up the water source. Instead of visiting a stream, hook up a hose and create your own running water. Afterward, you could gather up the soggy bread and compost it.

BIRD SEED



Of course, you could always use food birds actually eat. Pet supply stores might have suggestions as to what would be appropriate for local wildlife.

MAKE A “LETTING GO” COLLAGE WITH KIDS FOR TASHLICH



A big part of celebrating the Jewish new year is looking back on the previous year, asking forgiveness from people you might have hurt, and working to do better in the new year. The ritual of *tashlich* is a powerful way of letting go of your mistakes by “throwing away” sins, represented by small objects like breadcrumbs or pieces of paper. Here’s another way to use these symbolic scraps and also keep them as a reminder during the rest of the year: turn them into art!

Supplies

- Piece of large poster board
- Colorful/patterned paper

- Scissors
- Pen or marker
- Glue

Directions

- Anytime you need to say sorry to someone for something you've done wrong, do your best to make it right. Then, write or draw a picture of it on a small piece of colorful paper (for example, "I didn't share my toy with my sister").
- Cut the paper into small pieces so that you can't read the words anymore.
- Glue these pieces onto the poster board in any design you like.
- Continue to add different colored paper each time, letting go of your mistakes as you create something new and beautiful.

READ A STORY

The following picture books offer easy to understand explanations of *tashlich* along with some extra ideas for family or community ceremonies.

Happy New Year, Beni by Jane Zalben

Recommended for children 3 to 5 years old

Beni loves getting together with family on Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year -- if only it weren't for his mischievous cousin, Max. Max is making trouble for everyone! But Grandpa has a few words of wisdom about starting off the New Year right.

New Year at the Pier: A Rosh Hashanah Story by April Halprin Wayland

Recommended for children 5 to 7 years old

In this contemporary story, Izzy finds it difficult to apologize for a certain mistake, until the Rosh Hashanah tashlich service gives him new understanding.

Tashlich at Turtle Rock by Susan Schnur

Recommended for children 7 to 8 years old

On Rosh Hashanah, many families participate in tashlich, a tradition of throwing bread crumbs into water to wash away the mistakes of the past year. But this family has their own spin on tashlich -- and it takes place at Turtle Rock.

Shanah Tovah -- Happy New Year! Here's to fresh starts.